The Lions' Pride

Saint Leo University • Friday, September 23, 2011 • Volume IL No. 7 • Since 1965

Senior Cassie Barbaresi (19) weaves around defenders as Junior Andrea Lott (16) gives her an option. Chad Wise

Women's soccer upsets No. 1 Florida Tech

Lions keep winning streak alive

By Chad Wise
Sports Editor

University Field – Dari Alcantara scored the only goal and goalkeeper Laura Carstens made five saves in a hard-fought Lions 1-0 win against the top-ranked Florida Tech Panthers Wednesday night at University Field.

Attendance was high as the Athletic Department sought to raise the turnout by asking everyone to wear green for "Green-Out." Last week's "White-Out" for the Men's team was a success, and it is fair to say that the second instalment was also well-received.

The first half of the match saw the Lions (7-0, 1-0) outshot 8-2, but in no way the lesser side. Captain Aija Bent-Trinder oversaw the back line that limited the Panthers' (5-1, 0-1) chances to minor opportunities. A deflected shot saw Carstens wave as the ball passed but was lucky enough that the crossbar was on her side, the only major threat of the half.

Alcantara and Senior Pia Soesemann did their best to keep possession up front for the Lions, but could not find the break-through.

As if spurned-on by the massive turnout and the shocking appearance of fan-favorite Greenman at the half, the Lions grabbed the lead early from the break in the 56' on an Alcantara header from Cassie Barbaresi's corner.

The match was not over, however, and the Lions defended well against a Panthers onslaught that did not stop until the final buzzer.

Saint Leo will be happy not only with a win against a top-ranked opponent, but a conference foe, as well. The Lions look to take on Alabama-Huntsville in a non-conference match at University Field on Sunday, 25 September.

Our friend ICUF

Someone is fighting for more scholarships. But who?

By Danielle Cortes
Staff Writer

There are people behind closed doors that fight for the students to receive money for school, whether they have a family and are trying to attend school on a small budget, or are students that have jobs at home and commute for night time classes. Many programs have been set up in our government to aid students with furthering their education, but one program in particular focuses its efforts on small, independent schools like Saint Leo. The Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) work to advance the understanding of challenging issues and the well-being of independent colleges. Some of the universities and colleges involved are Rollins, Stetson, Eckerd, and Ave Maria. ICUF helps to ensure that the smaller independent universities and colleges have a say in legislation, especially when the topic is funding for the students of these schools.

ICUF has been the united front helping to maintain the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG). FRAG is a financial aid grant that is intended to help support undergraduate students pursuing their bachelor's degree, and students do not need to pay this back. Students applying for financial aid can find out their eligibility for FRAG by completing Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA), which will also alert students of any other financial aid they can attain.

However, ICUF does not just keep FRAG around in our financial aid: they are active in fighting to keep it in legislator's minds, and in making sure that legislators keep FRAG around simply because it is a help for both students and keeping cost down for Florida legislators. FRAG only allots $3,000 per student, where the public universities take up much more in aid per student, making debt worse for those students.

Dr. Persky would like to inform students that ICUF has a program called ICUF Fellows. This program allows students to meet with legislators in Tallahassee twice a year (once in January and during legislation).The program helps students to meet and network with students from others schools in Florida, and lobby and legislate for ICUF. Legislators love to meet the students that they work hard for. Dr. Persky even spoke of a particular trip where a legislator left the floor of the house to meet with students.

There will be opportunities this semester, later this month, and in October, to join ICUF fellows if students are interested. Dr. Persky's contact information in listed on the Saint Leo University directory.

Need a job?

See page five for more details

Opinions

New NFL Rules potentially detrimental

By Scott Brumett
Staff Writer

Now that the 2011 NFL season has begun, the new changes have begun to be put into effect as well. To start off, the new kickoff rule is absolutely bogus. I think moving the kickoff line up five yards is a really stupid move by the NFL. They are essentially taking away part of the game. Now with this rule, you will see more footballs being kicked through the back of the end zone, and in the case when the returner gets the ball, he will knee it down. So as a result, there will be a lot of touchbacks this year.

Kickoff returns will be rare because not a lot of players will even return the ball after they are in the back of their end zone. Yes, I understand this whole safety rule, and the NFL is looking out for its players. But, do us all a favor, and move the line back so you aren't literally eliminating a part of the game.

Another change that I have an opinion about is the new replay rule. I have to say that the NFL finally got it right. So many times, teams score when they clearly didn't have possession or control of the ball, and got lucky with the rule in place. Now that NFL has put this rule in place, you will be certain that it was a score, and it will be fairer. I think a more fair game with less doubt will create a better game, and in turn, a better football experience for the players and the fans.

I have an opinion. One is this whole no launching rule, and the defenseless player rule. I'll tell you what; when I was a kid, I loved football for its hard and vicious hits. Those kinds of bone shattering hits are what made me love the game. These players love to give those hits that make everyone jump out of their seats in awe and excitement. I think the NFL is taking this whole safety issue to the extreme, especially with no launching, and what constitutes as a defenseless player. A defenseless player is really interpreted by the referees and then the players get nailed for playing the game how it was supposed to be played. In the end, it comes down to money. These players get fined for those hits and the NFL gets more money. Ironically, the NFL has sold pictures of some of those "iillegal hits". So why don't they choose which side of the fence to be on?

In the end, we are all happy that football is back. I am, however, sick that this kickoff rule is taking away part of the game, and with the new rules concerning launching, and what constitutes as a defenseless player. These players were taught growing up how to play the game. Now they are told to play a different way. These players know the safety risks when they signed up. So the NFL needs to stop interfering with the game.

Club Lib

By Alyssa Schuyler
Assistant Layout Editor

Sometime after dinner students flock to the library clad in backpacks filled with paper, books and laptops for when the library turns into "Club Lib", which is open until 2 a.m. and offers free coffee and tea to patrons. Even if some students haven't heard of "Club Lib" you've probably been there, especially if you stay on the first floor after 10 p.m. Students socialize and have no regard to the usual library "Shhh" that society has come to be used to.

So, if "Club Lib" is so well known then what's the issue? The issue is that some students don't often go to the library to socialize. Students go to the library because it is supposed to be a place to study without distraction. Some students even have to be in the library for a certain amount of hours each week. These hours, however, are wasted because who can do work when at one side a group is singing along to songs and on the other a group is talking loudly about what they are doing this weekend. These conversations do not belong in the library setting and those who want to study should not be forced away from the coffee and other vital library resources and sent up to the second floor, where it is usually much quieter, or forced leave the library all together just to get work done.

Saint Leo prides itself on its core values. They are posted everywhere as a constant reminder of what Saint Leo stands for. One of those well known core values is Respect. Respect is what "Club Lib" is lacking. Students should respect that others are doing work and the constant chatter and socializing while taking ten minutes to make a cup of coffee is disrespectful. There is also a question of space when it comes to the library. With the growing amount of students on campus using resources, where will everyone go? Things are very "first come first serve" at the library and at least since last year there has been no new seating added in the library, only new carpeting. Those who come to the library to facebook, listen to music, and talk with friends are taking up valuable space for those who actually have studying to do.

"Club Lib" may be a cute idea as a nickname, but when it is put into full practice the library becomes a destructive place when it ought to be a place where students should be able to get work done. So please,"Club Lib" goers, leave the chatter behind and bring your work. The library is a place to learn, not to lean and rock.

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Campus News

New electees bring hope

By Scott Brumett
Staff Writer

Photos by Scott Brumett
New Freshman Class President, Corey Hannon, and Vice President, Christabelle Lteif

As with each new class that joins the Saint Leo University community, they must have student government representation. On the dates of Sept. 12 and Sept. 13, the class of 2015 took that task to hand. They voted for their new class President and Vice President. On Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011 the results were announced. The class President for the class of 2015 was Corey Hannon and the new class Vice President was Christabelle Lteif. Now this reporter sat down with each of them to get to know them and asked them some questions to get a feel for them as a person and what they each bring to the table.

The first person interviewed was Christabelle Lteif, the new Vice President. Christabelle is originally from the state of Massachusetts, but currently resides in the Spring Hill, FL area and is currently majoring in political science. Ltief spoke about her Saint Leo experience so far, her involvement at Saint Leo University, and what groups or clubs she would like to be involved in.

"I really love Saint Leo thus far. I am really enjoying it. Now, since I have been elected I am now a part of SGU and am really excited. I also want to join Pi Sigma Alpha and want to rush a sorority. I really want to be involved here at Saint Leo," said Lteif.

Lteif continued to share her plans for the future.

"I really want to be an attorney. It has always been a dream of mine to help people. I also aspire to one day be a congress woman, but that wouldn't be for a long time. I am currently also registered as a member of the Republican Party," said Lteif.

Lteif said that she wants to have a big class trip for the class of 2015. She made note that in their first meeting, they will talk about everything.

"I feel really honored to represent my class and will do my best to serve them well," said Lteif.

Corey Hannon, the newly elected president of the class of 2015, was the only registered candidate. This reporter asked him about being in that position and winning President.

"I was glad I won the position, but it would have been nice to run against someone. The fact was that I was the only person that turned my forms in time. So in the end, it shows that I was the most dedicated," said Hannon.

Corey Hannon also said that he served as class president when he was in high school. He shared some of his plans for his candidacy.

"I am excited and nervous at the same time. I know there is a big task ahead and I am going to take it on," said Hannon.

As student life at Saint Leo goes, Hannon has a lot of plans for involvement.

"I want to rush a fraternity, be a member of S.A.I.D, be a part of SGU, and be a Student Ambassador. I really want to be involved here at Saint Leo," said Hannon.

Hannon is an International Hospitality and Tourism Management major. When asked about his future career, he shared his ideas.

"I would really like to work event coordinating at either Walt Disney World or Universal Studios," said Hannon.

Hannon said that he really loves Saint Leo University and thinks everyone here is great. He loves the small atmosphere as well.

"As President, I plan on getting the freshman class involved. I really want to also do something for the housekeeping staff here at Saint Leo. Lastly, I want to do something big that leaves a mark."

The class of 2015 appears to be in solid hands with Hannon and Lteif at the helm.

Ms. Jerome Helton, Director of Campus Security and Safety retires

By Robert Barrington
Ad Editor

On Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, Ms. Jerome Helton, Director of Campus Security and Safety, retired at the age of 73. Ms. Jerome worked at Saint Leo University for over 37 years. Ms. Jerome was joined by Saint Leo University co-workers and students for her retirement celebration in front of the Campus Security and Safety building. The function featured a country/bluegrass band, plenty of southern cuisine, lemonade, and sweet tea. Many shed tears as staff, students, and friends wished Ms. Jerome a happy retirement.

"Saint Leo University is my home, and the staff are my family. I love my students, and I am going to miss everyone very much," said Ms. Jerome, in an emotional tone.

In March of 1974, Ms. Jerome left a job as a dispatcher for the Dade City Police Department to come work with the Saint Leo University Police and Security Department.

"When I first started working here, our troops started withdrawing from the Vietnam War. There were no more than 500 students here, and the most serious security violations were car vandalisms," said Ms. Jerome.

When asked about the biggest crime committed on campus, Ms. Jerome recalls that back in the early 1980's, fake identifications were a big problem on college campuses. Many people were arrested, and 32 ringleaders went to jail.

In 1991, Ms. Jerome became Director of Security for Saint Leo University and was the first woman in Florida to hold such a position. In 1992, Saint Leo University was voted the safest campus in Florida. College Profiles still ranks the Saint Leo University campus the safest in Florida. Anyone who has known Ms. Jerome is familiar with her warmth and her caring spirit. Many students explain that when they received parking tickets as a first offense, and were respectful when visiting Campus Security, Ms. Jerome was kind about giving warnings and waiving the fee. During Ms. Jerome's retirement party, Dr. Robert Cabot was explaining about how Ms. Jerome intervened when the university was going to arrest a student and expel him for perpetual crimes he had committed on campus.

By Robert Barrington
At her retirement party, Ms. Jerome Helton shares a touching moment with Dr. Robert Cabot

"Ms. Jerome had seen something in the student," said Cabot.

Today, the student has a successful career and is a pillar of society, and he can give thanks to "something" Ms. Jerome saw in him.

Although Ms. Jerome is kind, do not mistake this for weakness. Ms. Jerome jokingly tells a story about her first encounter with some Fraternity brothers from Saint Leo University. When Ms. Jerome first started working for Saint Leo University, her and her late husband who also worked as a grounds keeper and athletic department bus driver, lived near the campus. One night, Ms. Jerome noticed five young men near her property, and they were only wearing boxer shorts. She overheard them say, "Let's go scare the bus driver's wife." While smiling, Ms. Jerome explained, "I was just a little blonde thing back then, and I didn't know what they were going to do, so I fired a warning shot from my gun into the air. I could hear those boys screaming as they ran barefoot through a field of sand spurs." The next day while at work, Ms. Jerome noticed some students limping up to the security office. They approached Ms. Jerome and proceeded to complain about "the bus driver's crazy wife." Ms. Jerome put out her hand and said, "Boys, I would like to introduce you to the bus driver's crazy wife."

When asked what she is going to miss most about Saint Leo University, Ms. Jerome replied, "My students, I love my students. Staff is like my family, but I love my students."

Campus News

Taking a Closer Look at Saint Leo Dining Services

BY Alvin Atwood
Staff Writer

It's been a year since Saint Leo's cafeteria switched from Sodexo. Many students and even the staff have opinions and inputs on how things progressed since then.

It appears that the switch from Sodexo has improved many regulations within the café. According to Rich Vogel, Director of Dining Services,"For the most part, things are going very well. The hardest part was the transition last October but with many days of planning, my fantastic management team and Ken Posner's support it really was a seamless transition. Making the switch allowed us to make some changes with the management structure and to move some employees into positions they were better suited for. Sodexo mandated that we purchase our food using only their national accounts, with Saint Leo we are able to purchase locally which enables us to offer fresher foods and to support the local economy."

Students enjoying the new dining services

Photo courtesy of Greg Robinson

The food and the flow of organization is closely watched. Students notice the changes being made, and have a lot to say. Sophomore Ravin Forde says "I like the cafeteria's food. Most of the general complaints are simply based on preference', while junior Daniel Roman said, "The cafe is kept clean, organized, and the staff is very nice. The food on the weekends needs improvement though."

However, it is not all positive reviews. Sophomore student Cody Jean-Baptise said, "The staff should inspect the food. It's not bad at all. Everyone has their own tastes. The weekends are mainly the problem. However, for most of the part, the food hasn't really changed. If any student has any problems, reporting it to the manager is the quickest solution and is recommended in general."

According to Vogel, there were a few major changes that influenced the atmosphere of St. Leo's cafeteria. One of the most notable is the dessert and waffle station at the back of the cafeteria. Not only are these stations novel additions, but students have the ability to take the time and experiment with creating a new type of dessert. Hot food wells which offer hot fudge, caramel, and many toppings increase the opportunities for "experimentation."

The café is also installing new TVs around the dining hall. They will stay tuned to channel 96 so students can see all that is happening on campus each day while they wait in line for their meal to be prepared. "We started an employee focus group where a volunteer group of employees meet to discuss concerns and bring them back to the management team," says Vogel.

All of the changes are captivating and students are looking forward to the next surprise that the cafeteria has to offer.

FRAG Cuts May Hurt Florida Students

BY ANDREW JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Paying for tuition can be the largest headache that many students face while going to college, and the current recession only exacerbates the problem.

To help with this, many Florida residents have received State scholarships and grants attending college within Florida, such as Bright Futures and the Florida Resident Access Grant. However, due to the state budget crisis, the Florida Legislature has been forced to cut programs across the board, and students were hit the same as everyone else. The Florida Residence Access Grant, or FRAG, a program devoted to helping Florida Students attending select non-profit schools in the Florida area. The new amount for FRAG for the 2011-2012 school year is $2,149, down $300 from last year, and nearly $1000 from the high of $3000 in 2006-2007.

While a seemingly small cut in relationship to the total cost of tuition, many students will start to feel the pinch as they have to pay another $300 out of pocket, something that many low-income students can ill-afford. Adding onto these issues, this does not seem to be a one-time thing: Since the 2007-2008 school year, the FRAG has been dropping slowly, but steadily, each year.

On a recent trip to Flagler College, Governor Scott made this statement on the recent cuts to private tuition aid: "We want to spend the state dollars as efficiently as we can. No one has a monopoly on great education and when you have children you want what's best for them."

Governor Scott's sometimes controversial program cuts have given the state a surplus of 1.2 billion dollars at a time when many other states have a large deficit, but has been criticized for cutting many programs, including many student aid programs, during a recessionary period. However, despite talks in the Legislature of closing down FRAG entirely, no plans are in place to scrap the program, despite the cost to the state in excess to 90 million dollars.

While more cuts to student funding may be upcoming, those students who need this financial aid to help pay for their tuition should not fear: According to our Assistant to the President and ICUF mentor , Dr. Persky, "FRAG was treated equitably, and Gov. Scott recognizes the value in the program for the students from Florida who attend ICUF schools. (As well as) the long term benefit to the state of Florida by having the students remain in state and not leave for other states." ICUF, for those students who may not know, stands for the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida, and is a group of 29 colleges in Florida that receive grants from the FRAG program.

So, for any students that plan on going to continuing their college careers past this year, prepare to tighten your belts and spend more out of pocket for your tuition.

Campus News

Faculty Spotlight : David Persky

BY Robert Barrington
Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Scott Brumett

Dr. Persky

The Lions' Pride Newspaper would like to pay tribute to faculty and staff for playing a key role in making Saint Leo University's environment a great place to learn. This week's spotlight is on Dr. David Persky who is Assistant to the President at Saint Leo University, and is also currently acting as the Saint Leo University's Board of Governors' General Counsel until a new General Counsel comes in on September 26, 2011. Dr. Persky earned his B.A. in social science from Southern Methodist University, his M.S. in personnel counseling from Miami University in Ohio, his Ph.D in higher education from Florida State University, and his J.D. from Stetson University College of law.

Before coming to Saint Leo University in 1999, Dr. Persky had spent 10 years in the practice of law and was also the Assistant County Attorney for the Hillsborough County Attorney's Office. Dr. Persky jokes, "it was an early midlife crisis that sent me to law school." At the time he was a Dean at the University of Southern Florida and decided to attend Stetson University's Law program and earn his J.D.

At Saint Leo University, Dr. Persky was an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice and a Dean for the School of Continuing Education. At the time, The School of Continuing Education did not include The Center for Online Learning, but did include Continuing Education Centers in Texas, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Virginia. Before taking on the position of Assistant to the President, Dr. Persky helped plant the seeds to expand Continuing Education Centers into California.

Dr. Persky credits the success of Saint Leo University to Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr. who was appointed President of the university on January 6, 1997.. According to Dr. Persky, it was Dr. Kirk's great vision and strategic planning that has brought Saint Leo University to what it is now. In 1998, the Center for Online Learning was added to the university's program, and had a slow but steady beginning.

In 2008, Saint Leo University decided to leave their strategic partner and take the Center for Online Learning in-house and started handling their own affairs. According to Dr. Persky, there was a little dip in growth after leaving their strategic partner, but the Center for Online Learning is currently where it should be and continues to grow. When Dr. Persky talks about Saint Leo University, one senses how proud he is as he praises the accomplishments that Saint Leo University has made. While speaking with Dr. Persky, one can feel the aura of excitement that surrounds him.

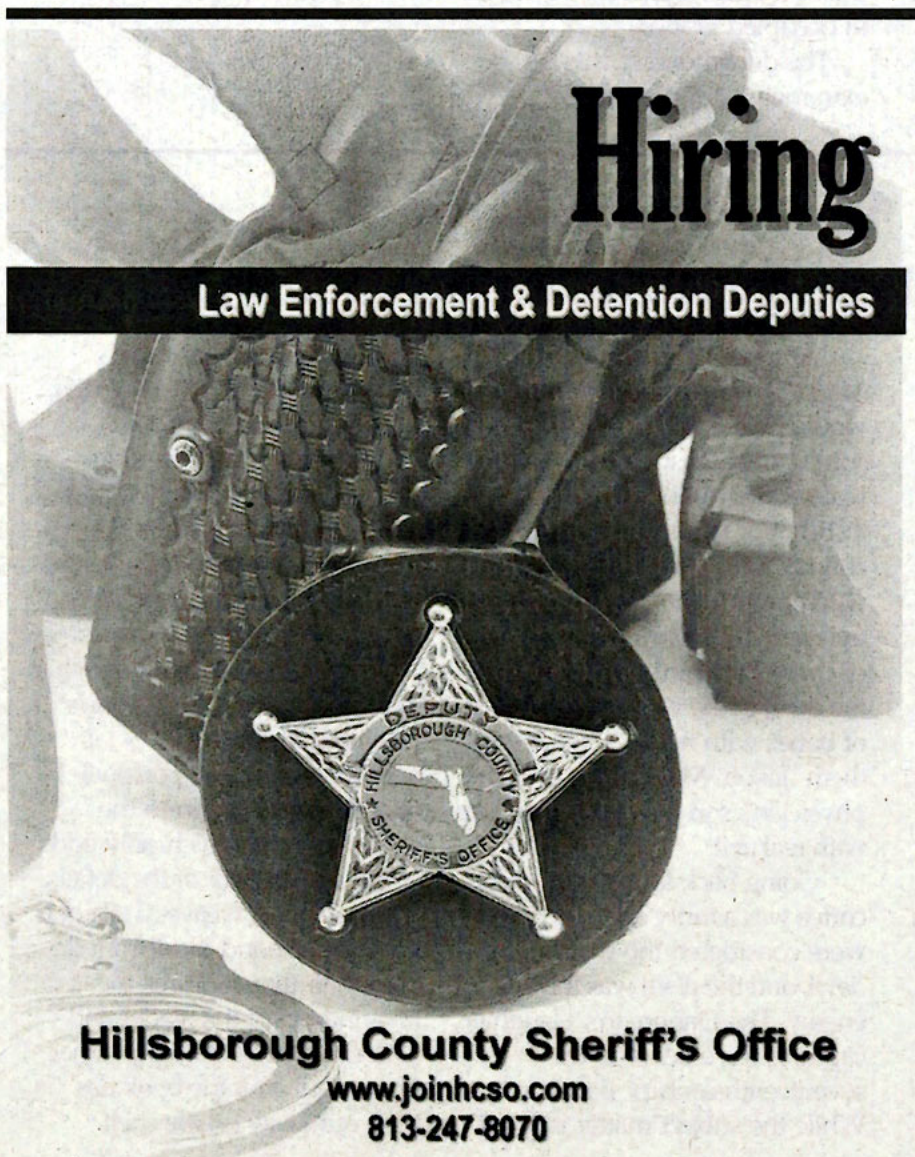
"Saint Leo is a great University, and people are always surprised at the growth. It has been a very exciting time," said Persky.

Since 1998, enrollment rates at Saint Leo University have doubled, and graduation rates have significantly increased. Many buildings have been completely renovated. Seven new buildings were constructed, and seven more were purchased. New construction seems to be a continuous occurrence at Saint Leo University. Additionally, new technology is being implemented in all parts of the university teaching environment, and every campus residential student is issued a new laptop computer.

"Dr. Kirk came in with a great vision, stayed true to his vision with his strategic plan, and here we are today," said Dr. Persky.

Dr. Persky talked about the rapid growth that Saint Leo University has taken,

"We just finished the Business Building, we have two more Residence Halls under way, and we start on a new parking structure in Fall; these are exciting times," said Persky.



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Arts & Entertainment

Julia Haslett's encounter with Simone Weil

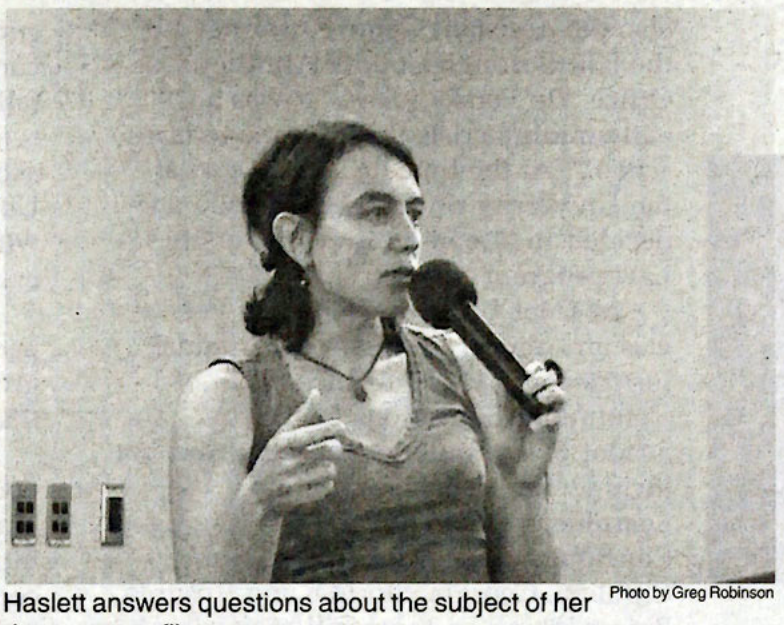
By Greg Robinson
Online Editor

Revolutionary. Political activist. Labor worker. Teacher. Philosopher. Author. Mystic. Christian. All of these words help describe Simone Weil (pronounced Vey), but none of them sum up her unique and tireless personality. However, Julia Haslett, a noted documentary filmmaker, attempted to distill the complex and mysterious revolutionary figure onto the screen.

An Encounter with Simone Weil was screened at Saint Leo University in the Greenfelder-Denlinger boardrooms on Monday evening, Sept. 19, at 7 p.m. The event was packed to the point that extra chairs had to be brought in to accomodate the crowd of Saint Leo students, faculty, staff, and guests.

Haslett was introducted by the Cannon Memorial Library director Brent Short, the library also having sponsoring the event. After she briefly introduced the documentary, the screening began.

Weil's existence was one of bourgeois comfort; however, the precocious and abnormally bright woman refused to succumb to an idle life. She was a tireless activist for factory workers, the oppressed, and the poor, believing in solidarity with the working men and women. One of her most famous quotes goes, "Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity."



Haslett answers questions about the subject of her documentary film. Photo by Greg Robinson

"Two prisoners whose cells adjoin communicate with each other by knocking on the wall. The wall is the thing which separates them but is also their means of communication. It is the same with us and God. Every separation is a link."
-Simone Weil

A teacher for portions of her life, Weil left her profession to work in a factory in 1934, when she was only 25. She believed that the only way to truly understand another's plight was to suffer with them; to literally walk in their shoes. Although she held many Communists beliefs, Weil never joined the Communist party, having a deep mistrust of institutions.

Weil fought in the Spanish Civil War against Franco and the Fascists. However, a severe burn forced her to leave after a short period, three years before the Fascists took complete control of the country. When World War II broke out, Weil renounced her doctrine of pacifism, recognizing the evil of Hilter and the Nazis. Weil eventually succumbed to tuberculosis in 1943 while working for the Free French Government in London. Her health deteriorated quickly because she refused to eat more than the rations provided to those in occupied France.

The documentary was extremely well-presented, juxtaposing Weil's biography with personal struggles in Haslett's family and how attention as generosity could be applied to the real world. The cinematography was innovative yet appropriate for the genre, while an actor attempting to portray Weil was an interesting and bold touch to this style of filmmaking. Although overtly political at times, An Encounter with Simone Weil ends on a poignant note, summing up the film's subject nicely.

A question and answer session was held with producer/director Haslett following the screening. Among the questions she answered were her personal feelings on Weil, the evolution of the film over a six-year period, and Weil's impact on the world.

Haslett is a documentary filmmaker with a number of projects under her belt. She worked on a documentary called Hold your Breath that was shown on PBS in 2007, as well as working with public television station WGBH-Boston. Haslett has also worked for the Discovery Channel. Most of her films are described as "expressionistic" documentaries.

In her short life, Weil left behind the equivalent of 16 volumes of writing, categorized in various notebooks. Most of these were published posthumously. Due to her prolific nature, many quotes from Weil are popular today.

The Hangman's Daughter : The devil comes alive in seventeenth-century Bavaria

By Brooke King
Entertainment Editor

The year is 1659 and the Thirty Years' War has just ended. There had not been a shred of witchcraft pandemonium in several decades, but all the years of peaceful silence come crashing to a bitter halt when a young boy is found gruesomely murdered and pulled from the river covered in the markings of witches.

The local midwife, Martha Stechlin, is suspected of the crime and the villagers have tasked Jakob Kuisl, a Bavarian hangman, to extract the confession from her by torturing her until he gets one. Magdalena is the smart and stubborn daughter of Jakob Kuisl. She and her father live outside the confines of the village and Magdalena is set to be married to another hangman's son, although the town physician's son is madly in love with her. Yet, for all of her father's infinite love for Magdalena, his words of wisdom match his eccentric profession, dark and dismal.

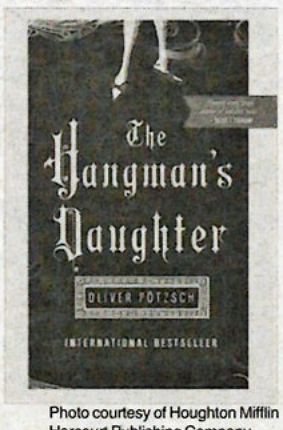


Photo courtesy of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company

Assured of her innocence, Magdalena and her swooning would-be suitor (the physician's son) fight against time to find the real killer and bring them to justice, but when the another child is found branded with the witch's mark, the town becomes frenzied. Tales begin to spiral out of control about the spotting of the devil in the woods with hands of bones with no flesh about them. Jakob, Magdalena, and the physician's son now go face to face with real evil.

Going back to the day when coffee was a rarity and autopsies were considered the work of the devil, and the devil was the only enemy, The Hangman's Daughter captures the essence of the seventeenth-century Bavaria. While the subject matter is quite dark, the plot is not overly gruesome, leaving just enough detail for the reader's own imagination. The intriguing mystery surrounding the plot captivates and catapults the reader into the story, connecting the reader with the characters and the time period.

The author, Oliver Pötzsch (a descendent of one of Bavaria's leading dynasties of executioners), has a personal historical connection to the subject matter, which only adds to the authenticity of the details. The story itself weaves a tale of a sympathetic and kindhearted hangman that captures the imagination of the reader and lives on as the archetypal father figure well after the book has been out away on the shelf.

The forgotten founding father

By Robert Barrington
Ad Editor

Happy Constitution Day! This year's Constitution Day celebration brought Joshua Kendall, author of the book, Noah Webster: The Forgotten Founding Father, to Saint Leo University on September 15 for the University's Speaker Series.

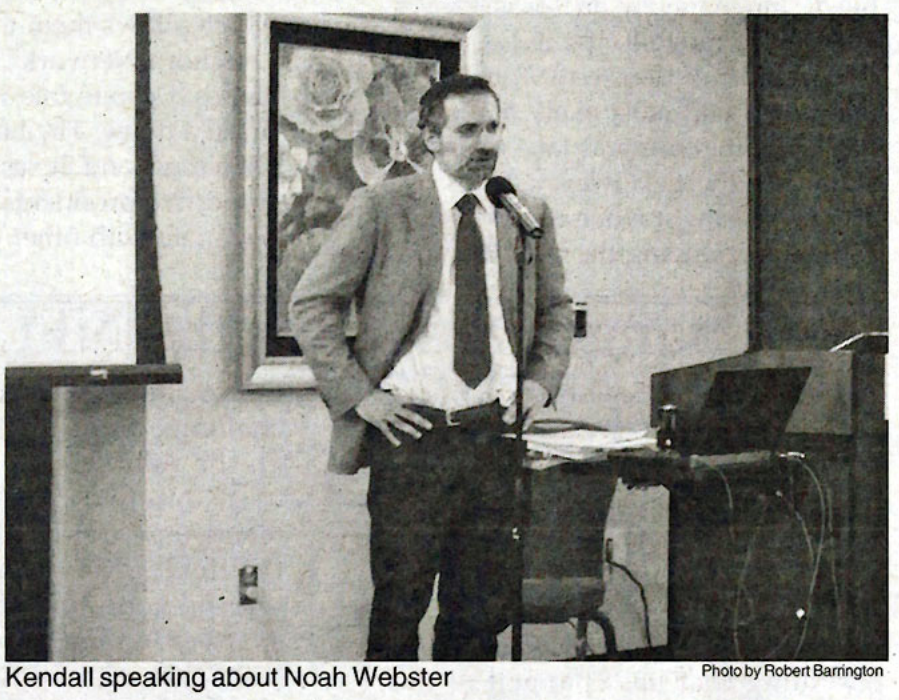
Kendall was well greeted in the Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardroom at the Student Community Center while awaiting his introduction. Before introducing Kendall, Dr. Hudson Reynolds tells everyone that properly situated on a relatively accessible shelf in his office sit two big books; one is a revised version of the Webster Dictionary, and the other is Roget's Thesaurus. Of all the times he had used the books, he had never given a thought to the authors themselves, and what kind of men they might have been, or what extraordinary efforts they put into constructing those books. Reynolds then introduced Kendall as the man who has cast splendid light on what, for Reynolds, once laid veiled in darkness.

Kendall has written two books, The Man Who Made Lists, about Peter Mark Roget, creator of the Roget Thesaurus, and Noah Webster: The Forgotten Founding Father, about Webster, who is best known for his creation of the Webster Dictionary. Kendall begins his lecture by assuring us that it was Noah Webster who wrote the dictionary, "and not only was Webster the dictionary guy, but he was also a statesman, political founder, and a forgotten founding father." Webster died in 1843 and is considered by historians in America's trinity of fame to have been as important as Christopher Columbus and George Washington as one of the three most influential Americans. Kendall said, "Webster's fame did not originate from his political writings, or from his dictionary, but from a book he wrote in 1783." Kendall calls the book, "the Harry Potter of it's day," and explained that it sold like crazy. In the next hundred years, Webster's American Spelling Book, sold over one hundred million books. The "Blue Back Reader," as it was known, gave five generations of immigrant Americans a national language. "That language is American English, " said Kendall.

After the success of the American Spelling Book, Webster gained the platform of a nationally known journalist. Kendall explained some of the aspects of Webster's personality. "Webster was a very arrogant and crotchety man, and when he got an idea he aimed high," said Kendall.

Webster had an idea of what was wrong with America, so in 1785, he went to Mount Vernon to tell George Washington what to do to fix the country, and gave him a book he wrote called Sketches of American Policy. Webster was also in Philadelphia during the constitutional convention, and he was a personal adviser to George Washington. These are the reasons why Joshua Kendall calls Noah Webster a Founding Father.

Kendall presented his lecture in an entertaining fashion by telling stories of Webster's life. He explained how Webster's obsessions with having a unique and unified American language is what drove Webster to write the Dictionary. Kendall also noted how Webster's relationship to Washington may have shaped Washington's views. Kendall states that although Webster is not well known for being a Founding Father, Webster's influence had a very important role in the construction of the United States Constitution. Kendall ends his lecture by saying that even though these are tough times, if someone is really obsessed with something and has a passion, they should go ahead and do it. Kendall's entertaining lecture was educational, easy to listen to, and follow. This year's Constitution Day celebration appropriately honored the creator of American English Dictionary and forgotten founding father, Noah Webster.



Kendall speaking about Noah Webster — Photo by Robert Barrington

Nostalgia in 3-D

By Cheralyn Barrington
Layout Editor

A masterpiece for those very young, very old, and anywhere in between, exists in Disney's The Lion King. The film manages to make its audience feel very real emotion through its depiction of deep emotional loss, and its powerful, booming musical numbers.

As many are already familiar with, The Lion King tells the story of a playful lion cub named Simba, voiced by Johnathan Taylor Thomas, who is next in line to become king. Almost all in the animal kingdom rejoice the arrival of young Simba, with the exception of his bitter, black sheep of the family uncle, named Scar, voiced by Jeremy Irons. Scar resents Simba because he would have been next to the throne if Simba had not been born. Scar uses his ability to manipulate against Simba's naivety, and tricks Simba into being part of his own father's demise. Dealing with an immense loss and believing he is to blame for his father's death, Simba embarks on a journey to find his place in the world.

Although it's intended to be a children's movie, in a subtle way, this production contains more substance and depth than many of the films released today. Transforming The Lion King into 3-D has just enhanced its rich, beautiful qualities. For example, when it rains in Pride Rock, where the animals in Simba's kingdom live, it looks as if it is raining on the audience. Also, when colorful leaves fly through the air, it appears as if they are flying through the theater. The 3-D added to the film enhances the already vibrant, gorgeous scenes of nature, giving the audience an experience beyond the movie screen.

The film also includes a killer cast who provide familiar voices to the characters beyond those mentioned above. Among this cast are Matthew Broderick, who voices adult Simba, James Earl Jones, who provides voice to Mufasa, Simba's father, and even Whoopi Goldberg plays a part as Shenzi, one of Scar's hyena minions.

Releasing the film in 3-D brings about nostalgia in those who have seen the film before and once cherished it, and provides them with a grand way to show it to the next generation. Just as this was released as a children's film in 1994, it still appeals to a young audience whose families want to share this special film with them. This beloved re-release truly celebrates the "circle of life."

Sports

Big 12 schools attempt to restructure

BY GREG ROBINSON
Online Editor

The Big 12, one of college football's most respected and storied conferences, faces dramatic restructuring that could result in a number of major universities leaving for greener pastures. The decision is complicated by lucrative television contracts, other universities in other conferences, and major football programs attempting to remain viable.

The questions revolving around the Big 12 hinge mostly on Texas A&M's decision to move to the SEC (Southeastern Conference). If they leave for the SEC, Oklahoma will most likely move to the Pac 12 conference and take Oklahoma State with them. However, Texas could also be making a move to the same conference, leaving the Big 12 without one of the wealthiest universities in the nation.

In addition to the Big 12 restructuring, the Big East conference is losing members Pittsburgh and Syracuse to the ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference). If the Big 12 loses some of its members, as is likely, they may seek to absorb the remnants of the Big East, which includes the recently dominant University of South Florida.

Texas is attached to the Big 12 because of a contract for television rights, which allows them to operate "The Longhorn Network" to broadcast their own games. Despite this, Texas may be able to make a move. The board of regents at Oklahoma and Texas recently gave their respective presidents the power to negotiate with other conferences, signaling that a departure is likely.

All actions are being driven by a fear of losing viability in the highly competitive world of college football. With the SEC and the Pac 12 becoming the biggest names in the sport, universities are scrambling to stay competitive while retaining millions of dollars in television revenue and endorsements. There are also fears that the two aforementioned conferences could become obscenely powerful, dominating the world of college football and monopolizing the talent pool.

Whatever decision is made, the landscape of college football will likely be dramatically realigned. Could the Big 12, one of college football's most legendary conferences, be rendered obsolete in the next two years, and we be entering the era of football superconferences?

Big changes are in for the NFL

BY SCOTT BRUMETT
Staff Writer

So as you all may know who watch football, the NFL season has officially begun. Last week they kicked off the season with the tribute to September 11 on the 10 year anniversary. With the start of the NFL season, there is one thing that has changed in the offseason: the rules. There have been several rule changes and tweaking by the owners and the NFL Front office.

The first major rule change that has received a lot of press and criticism has been moving the kickoff line from the 30 yard line up to the 35 yard line. When the football has been made set and ready for play, all players on the kicking team, minus the kicker and a holder, must be lined up five yards behind the restraining line.

Another change in the 2011 season of the NFL is the use of instant replay after a touchdown is called on the field. These replays will be initiated by the replay judge. This rule was previously used, but was only used inside the two minute warnings of the football game. However, if the ruling is not called a touchdown, then the coach must used one of his challenge flags to challenge the ruling on the field.

Another rule change is that the teams may not challenge a ruling on the field if the team draws a penalty that prevents the ball from being snapped on the very next play. The team that commits the foul will not be able to challenge the previous ruling on the field. This rule is meant to stop teams from stalling the game for the purpose of trying to "buy time" to then possibly challenge the call on the previous play.

Another rule change is that there will be no illegal launching. This has been a violation in the past few seasons, but has been formally defined and added to the rule book. In the NFL rule book it says, "It is an illegal launch if a player leaves both feet prior to contact to spring forward and upward into his opponent, and uses any part of his helmet to initiate forcible contact against any part of his opponent's body." The rules also state that this only applies when it is against a player that is considered defenseless.

Another change is that they has formally defined and added to the NFL Rule book of what a defenseless player is and there are eight categories that have been created. The categories are as follows: A player in the act of throwing a pass, a receiver attempting to catch a pass who has not become a runner, a runner whose forward progress has been stopped, a kick or punt returner attempting to field a kick in the air, a player on the ground at the end of a play, a kicker or punter during the kick or during the return, a quarterback at any time after a change of possession, and lastly a player who receives a blindside block when the blocker is moving toward his own end line and approaches the opponent from behind or from the side (this is also called a peel-end block).

The last change to address is the new overtime rule. In overtime, if the team who has the ball scores a touchdown, then the game is over. However, if they only kick a field goal, then the opponents have a chance to score. If the opponents fail to kick a field goal or get a touchdown in that one drive then the game is over.

As one can see, this season of the NFL should be interesting with all these new rules. One good thing is that we have football back and now you can be more aware of the game with these rule changes.

Men's soccer falls to #4 Rollins College

BY MIKE FARRAR
Staff Writer

Last Friday, the Saint Leo men's soccer team squared off against Rollins College, ranked #4 at the time. The #16 Lions entered to the roaring crowd an undefeated team, but unfortunately were not able to pull off the win.

Defensively, the Lions came out strong, allowing no goals in the first 23 minutes of regulation play. Defenders Joey Lontrato and Eishun Yoshidawere strong on the defensive side.

Goalie McKenzie Scott made two amazing saves before giving up his first goal. Scott has been excellent in the past five games, only giving up four goals and also posting a shutout against Newberry. Also, forward Aaron Gendreau scored his 3rd goal in two games.

McKenzie Scott makes a great save.

Photo courtesy of Mike Carlson

The crowd did their best to help out the Lions, cheering so loud it was difficult to hear on the field, causing some mistakes by Rollins. The Lions fans in attendance were wearing white Saint Leo shirts in support of their soccer team.

Before the game, the Student Activities Board held a free BBQ for all those in attendance that wore their white Saint Leo gear. These free giveaways are also an attempt to bring more students out to Saint Leo athletic events.